WHAT'S UP? KEN'S MORE PUMPED THAN USUAL.
I'M BACK!
HAHAHA-!
LISTEN TO THIS, ASUKA!
TOMORROW, THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM...
THAT'S RIGHT!
LOOKS LIKE HE SUCCEED-ED.

Chapter 6
The Student Council That Won't Go As Planned
WILL BE GRACED BY THE PRESENCE OF 4 BEAUTIFUL GIRLS!

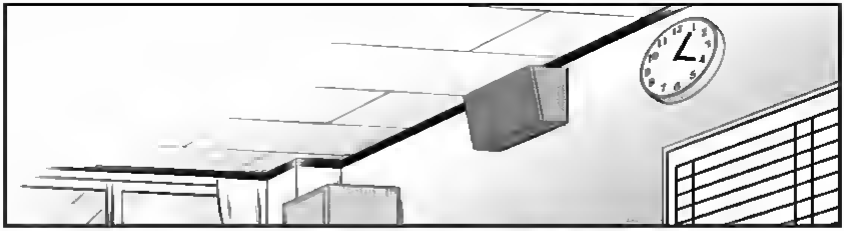
THEY'RE HERE! 4 BEAUTIFUL GIRLS! IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM!
Ken-san sure is happy...
HE'S SO HAPPY HE SHOULD JUST HEAD TO HELL NOW.
I DON'T CARE IF I DIE!
WAIT, NO!
FROM NOW ON I'LL BE ENJOYING A LIFE FILLED WITH THE BEAUTIES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL, SO I CAN'T DIE!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FEAST MY EYES ON THIS SCENE IN ABOUT 2 MONTHS. I CAN'T HELP BUT BE SO OVERWHELMED WITH JOY!
RIGHT, KAGAMI?
YOU ONLY REALLY GET EXCITED WHEN EVERYONE'S GATHERED.
WELL, THAT'S TRUE.
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT!

"GLOOMY"!?
ガビーン
YOU UNDERSTAND ME SO MUCH MORE THAN THOSE GLOOMY GIRLS OVER THERE!
キラ
WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO GATHER 4 GIRLS IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM!
IN ANY CASE, THANKS TO KAGAMI JOINING IN,
U-UM...
JOURNALISM CLUB
BUT I'M SITTING IN HINOMORI-SAN'S SEAT RIGHT NOW...

HEY! YOU CAN'T KAZAMI! DO THAT, I WAS VERY CLEAR!
THERE ARE 4!
BEAUTIFUL GIRLS!
IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM!
THAT'S THE POINT!
Y-yes sir!
IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU KEEP SAYING BEAUTIFUL GIRLS, BUT I'M JUST AVERAGE NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT
あせ
あせ
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KAZAMI?
I THINK YOU'RE PLENTY CUTE, THE CUTEST.
シャラーン
AH!

SUGISAKI-SAN'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS
SAME AS ALWAYS, KEN-SAN
WHOA!?
KAZAMI?
Uuu... uu...
WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS!? FINE, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
HEY, PRES!
YESTERDAY, JISTURDAY- WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE MINASE-SAN JOIN US.
SHE BIT HER TONGUE AGAIN.
WHAT THE HELL IS JISTURDAY...
JISTURDAY?
IT'S AWKWARD IF WE POINT IT OUT...
AND SO, CURRENTLY THE PERSUATION OF THE ONLY MISSING MEMBER, HINOMORI TOUKO, IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

REGARDING THIS MATTER, WE'VE DECIDED THAT DIRECTLY APPROACHING HER WOULD BE THE BEST METHOD.
WE WOULDN'T WANT TO ALL GO AT ONCE AND SCARE HER OFF, HOWEVER
THEREFORE, I THINK IT'S BEST IF WE SEND KEN-SAN ALONE.
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL TRY MY BEST.
BUT BE READY TO SUPPORT ME IF I NEED IT, OKAY?
OF COURSE. EVERYONE AGREES, YES?
NOD...
THEN WE'LL MEET NEXT WHEN THERE'S PROGRESS ON HINOMORI'S FRONT.
MEETING ADJOURNED.
GOOD WORK, EVERYONE



SAIONJI HAS OTHER THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF AND MINASE IS GOING STRAIGHT HOME.
AS FOR ME, I SHOULD GO MEET HINOMORI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
UM SUGISAKI-SAN...

HM?
AS THE JOURNALISM CLUB PRESIDENT, I REALLY WANT TO SUPPORT YOU,
ESPECIALLY FOR THE FIRST MEETING, BUT...
AHH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL JUST BE SCOUTING IT OUT.
I'M SORRY RIGHT AT THE MOST CRUCIAL MOMENT...

I REALLY REALLY WANT TO GO TOO.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN LIKE IN A LIGHT NOVEL WHEN THE PROTAGONIST ENCOUNTERS AN UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTY, AND IT BECOMES THE TURNING POINT FOR HIS GROWTH.
I COULD WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES LIKE THE RIVAL CHARACTERS ALWAYS DO...
AH, IT WASN'T WANTING TO FIGHT BY MY SIDE...?
THE JOURNALISM CLUB HAS TO DO SOME FOLLOW UP ON A STORY FROM BEFORE...
HMM ..
WELL, THAT'S YOUR ACTUAL JOB SO GOOD LUCK, KAZAMI.
THANK YOU, THEN I'LL BE GOING!
YEAH! SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
YES!

TL/N: CHARACTERS REFERENCED ARE THE MC AND RYOJI FROM PERSONA 3 AND THE MC AND THE ANGUISHED ONE FROM SHIN MEGAMI TENSEI: DEVIL SURVIVOR 2. P3 IS ADAPTED TO A SERIES OF MOVIES, AND DESU2 HAS A BADLY ADAPTED ANIME THAT DOES NOT COVER THE TRIANGULUM PART OF THE STORY.

...SUGISAKI-SAN, YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
SENPAI
AHH, BYE THEN!

HM? WHAT'S UP, KAGAMI? YOU'RE STILL HERE?
TODAY KAGAMI HAS
Looots of free time
Hey, let go!!
ずるずる
Senpai, if it's okay with you, can Kagami come too~?
がしっ
ずる
WELL, ITS ABOUT TIME I HEAD OUT ALONE TO MEET HINOMORI, ALONE!

KAGAMI'S SO EXCITED~!
IT ENDED UP LIKE THIS
KAGAMI'S CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON HINOMORI-SENPAI IS!
I have a bad feeling about this
Y-yeah yeah
KYA
KYA
Aren't you excited, senpai?

And isn't she supposed to be a really beautiful girl? Senpai, you're excited too, aren't you?
さっぽう!
What kind of house would she have?
SINCE HINOMORI IS A HIKIKOMORI, WE'RE HEADING TO HER HOUSE.
*RIAJUU: A PERSON LIVING A FUFILLING LIFE
AND OVER HERE ON THE COMPLETELY OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE SPECTRUM WE HAVE THE RIAJUU*. EVEN I CAN SEE IT'S A TERRIBLE IDEA TO BRING HER ALONG...
Yeah e excited..
SHE'S GOING TO NONCHALANTLY STEP ON A LANDMINE...
But, you know...
とぼ
とぼ
IF SHE'S ANYTHING LIKE MAFUYU-CHAN, THE TYPE OF HIKIKOMORI WITHOUT ANY SELF CONFIDENCE, THEN THERE WOULD BE NO TIME TO FIX ANY SCREW-UP...
Is this really okay?
I'M WORRIED, EXTREMELY WORRIED...

That's not what I'm worried about...
SHE'LL DEFINITELY BE A GOOD PERSON!
AH, BUT THOSE WERE MOSTLY BASED ON HER APPEARANCE, WEREN'T THEY?
SHE GOT A HUGE AMOUNT OF VOTES IN THE ELECTION!
IT'LL BE FINE!
BUT KAGAMI THINKS IT'LL DEFINITELY BE OKAY!
PROBABLY! SOMEHOW!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
.....

I WAS OVERTHINKING THINGS. THAT'S UNLIKE ME.
RUB
HYA!?
AHH... SORRY
RING RING RING
W-what is it... Don't stare so much, senpai...
THANKS, KAGAMI. IT WAS A GOOD THING YOU CAME ALONG AFTER ALL.
HUH?
Ah, y-you're welcome-
PAT
PAT

SUGISAKI-SAN!
OH, KAZAMI, WHAT'S U-
Y-YEAH, I AM.
IS THAT SO? UNDERSTOOD, THEN...
YOU'RE WITH HAGAMI-SAN RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU?
SENPAI, WHAT'S WRONG?
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
DO NOT LET THAT GIRL KNOW ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF OUR CONVERSA-TION FROM THIS POINT FORWARD UNDER ANY CIR-CUMSTANCES.
WHAT...?

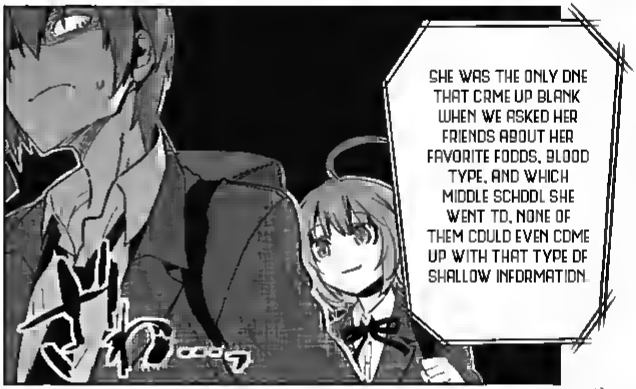
WOW, LOOKS LIKE THE JOURNALISM CLUB HAS IT ROUGH
FROM HERE ON OUT, ONLY RESPOND WITH "AHH" OR "YEAH".
IF POSSIBLE, MAKE IT SEEM LIKE WE'RE JUST MAKING SMALL TALK.
THAT'S THE IDEA.
I'LL GET RIGHT INTO IT, THEN.

DO NOT TRUST KAGAMI HOKUTO.
.....
!?

BUT FOR THE EXTROVERTED SOCIAL BUTTERFLY HAGAMI HOKUTO-SAN...
H-HMM...
WE WERE MAKING A SIMPLE PROFILE ABOUT THE LIKES, DISLIKES, BLOOD TYPE, AND HOBBIES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR AN ARTICLE

MY SUSPICIONS STARTED WHEN WE WERE GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT HER. THE PROCESS WAS UNUSUALLY SLOW

はは...
BUT YOU KNOW, I DON'T EVEN KNOW MEGURU THAT WELL.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...


SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAME UP BLANK WHEN WE ASKED HER FRIENDS ABOUT HER FAVORITE FOODS, BLOOD TYPE, AND WHICH MIDDLE SCHOOL SHE WENT TO. NONE OF THEM COULD EVEN COME UP WITH THAT TYPE OF SHALLOW INFORMATION.

CAN YOU STILL CONSIDER THAT NORMAL?
NO, THE FACT THAT THEY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE SHE WASN'T REVEALING ANYTHING ABOUT HERSELF...
SOMEONE WITH SUCH A LARGE AND CLOSE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, WHO ALL KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HER

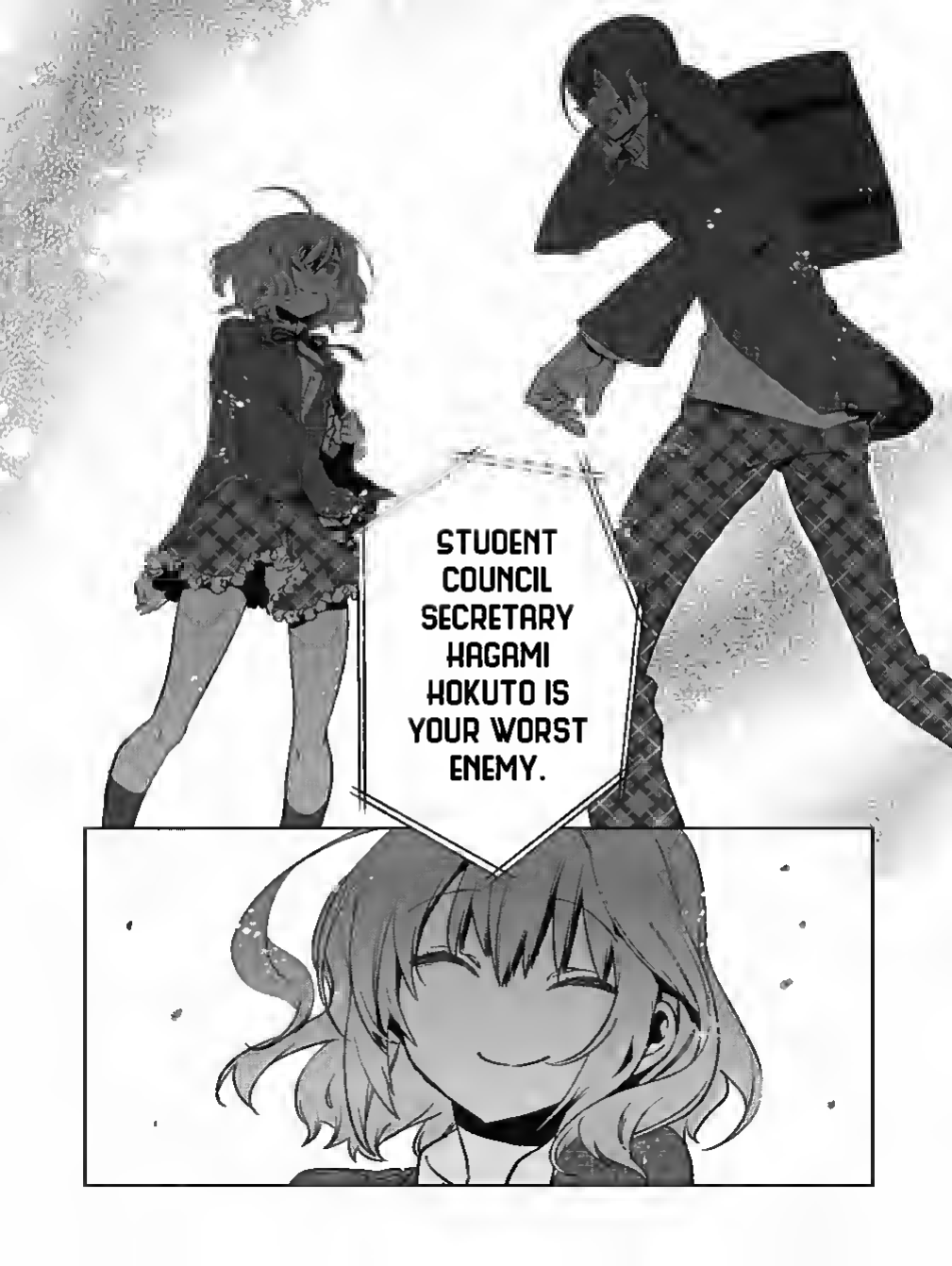
I'M VERY AWARE THAT THIS COULD ALL JUST BE MY FANTASY AS SOMEONE WHO'S READ WAY TOO MANY LIGHT NOVELS, BUT I WANT YOU TO THINK CAREFULLY...
AHH...
WHEN I NOTICED THIS, I STARTED BEING A LITTLE MORE GUARDED AROUND HER.
DON'T HER ACTIONS TOWARDS YOU UNTIL NOW SEEM AS IF SHE'S PURPOSEFULLY TRYING TO HINDER THE FORMATION OF THE NEW STUDENT COUNCIL?
NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT...
HUH?

I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE SCARIEST THING OF ALL
BUT ..IF THERE REALLY WAS SOMEONE THAT WAS LITTLE BY LITTLE, TO AN EXTENT THAT COULDN'T BE NOTICED, PUSHING THINGS IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.
HAAH... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU PARANOID.
ドクン...
ドクン...
ANO SO...
NO MATTER HOW CERTAIN I AM, OR HOW MANY TIMES I'VE CONFIRMED IT, I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS THEORY...
THAT REPORT WAS ON KAGAMI-SAN, ADDING ON TO WHAT WE KNOW WITH INSIDER INFO.
AHH
SUGISAKI-SAN, I DIDN'T COME WITH YOU TODAY FOR THE SAKE OF HEARING THE JOURNALISM CLUB'S REPORT.
SHE WAS THREATENED BY AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE.
Drop out from the student council
Don't you dare do it
LISTEN CAREFULLY.
THE REAL REASON THE 5TH PLACE FINISHER IN THE ELECTION, SHIRAKI RIE, REFUSED THE STUDENT COUNCIL POSITION WAS...
Anonymous DROP OUT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

EVEN IF I HAVE NO EVIDENCE, THAT WAS DEFINITELY HER DOING.
THAT'S... BUT...
I HEARD IT FROM HER PERSONALLY JUST NOW
THE RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT WAS THE INCLUSION OF 6TH PLACE HAGAMI HOKUTO IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL
ドクン ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
Senpai
BUT...
!!
ヒナタン
Senpai
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO FINISH YOUR CALL? KAGAMI'S SUPER BORED.
A-AH... SORRY, I'M FINISHED WITH THE IMPORTANT STUFF. JUST LET ME SAY GOOD-BYE, OKAY?

Personally, Kagami loves the student council!
AH. BUT IT'LL BE HARD TO GET SOMEONE THAT ISOLATED TO COME TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
COME ON. LET'S GET TO CONVINCING HINOMORI-SEN-PAI TO COME TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL ALREADY!
WE SHOULD MAKE SURE NOT TO OVERDO IT AND HURT HER, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY. FORCING THAT OF PERSON INTO JOINING IF THEY REALLY DON'T WANT TO KIND OF FEELS LIKE BULLY-ING. DOESN'T IT?
BUT THERE IS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULDN'T LIKE IT NO MATTER WHAT. ISN'T THERE?

AH, IF WE THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAY, DIDN'T SAIONJI-SENPAI AND MINASE-SENPAI ALSO NOT WANT TO JOIN THE STUDENT COUNCIL?
おおおおっ
I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE EVIDENCE ANYMORE
AH, BUT KAGAMI JOINED BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE FUN!
ふふっ
Right, senpai?
KYA HA HA!
EVEN IF I HATED YOU FOR WANTING TO MAKE THE STUDENT COUNCIL YOUR HAREM, I WOULD STILL TELL YOU THIS.
……
Well, it's best not to think about gloomy things like that!
ふくっ


STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY HAGAMI HOKUTO IS YOUR WORST ENEMY.

/A/NONYMOUS

Shin Seitokai no Ichizon

Chapter 6

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